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Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2236

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EGYPT BUYS MORE WHEAT

Egypt plans to buy more U.S. wheat under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's export enhancement program. Sec'y of Agric John Block said that U.S. exporters will have the opportunity to sell an additional quantity of up to 500,000 metric tons of wheat under the program, which includes a Commodity Credit Corporation bonus in the form of wheat. The CCC bonus will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in Egypt in response to future tenders for wheat. This is Egypt's second purchase under the program. In September, Egypt bought 500,000 tons of wheat and 175,000 tons of wheat flour.

SALES TO USSR

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Oct. 30 the sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to the USSR during the 1985-86 marketing year and under the third year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement. Sales of wheat and corn to the USSR for delivery during the third year of the agreement now total 2,905,700 tons, of which wheat is 150,000 tons and corn is 2,755,700 tons. The third year term began Oct. 1, 1985 and ends Sept. 30, 1986.

WORLD FOOD NEED

During 1985/86, 69 developing countries will need an estimated 9 million tons of cereal grains in excess of estimated commercial imports to maintain consumption at the currently existing levels, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is down 2.4 million tons from the previous estimate in July and 2.7 million below assessed needs in 1984/85. To meet minimum nutritional standards, the countries would need 18.6 million tons, a 730,000-ton decline from the July projection and 7 million tons less than estimated 1984/85 needs.

WEATHER DAMAGES S.W. EUROPE PASTURE & RANGE

Unseasonably warm, dry weather across much of southern Western Europe for the past two months has damaged pasture, range and forage crops, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmers in France and Italy are beginning to use feed grains and forage that were stored for winter. Increased feed grain use is expected to alleviate some export pressure while raising intra-EC trade, as feed wheat, particularly from the United Kingdom, is moved to feed grain deficit areas.

CORN TO JAPAN

Private exporters reported on Oct. 29 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the export sales of 103,632 metric tons of corn for delivery to Japan during the 1985-86 marketing year. The marketing year for corn began Oct. 1.

FARM BILL &
1984 PAYMENTS

The 80 percent of all U.S. farms with sales less than \$100,000 receive less than one-third of Government payments, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The farms in the most difficult financial situation, but helped least by Government payments, are the small, full-time family farms. In 1984, only about 20 pct. of total U.S. farm production was directly supported by Government payments. Less than half the financially stressed farmers participated in any commodity program in 1984. Only 24 pct. of the direct payments went to financially stressed farms, with debt-to-asset ratios above 40 percent and negative cash flows. Only 11 pct. of direct payments went to the more seriously financially stressed farms - those with debt-to-asset ratios above 70 pct. and negative cash flows. Only 17 pct. of payments went to financially stressed farms that relied primarily on farm income for their livelihood. Farms with sales of \$100,000-\$249,999 had average equity of \$430,000 per farm in 1984. They received nearly 40 pct. of Government payments. Farms with net worths exceeding \$2 million garnered about 6 pct. of all payments.

FRENCH
WHEAT

The European Community (EC) Commission has released 900,000 tons of bread-quality wheat from French intervention stocks, 600,000 tons for export to non-EC countries and 300,000 tons for domestic sale, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The release for third-country export is expected to increase competition on world markets while indicating the Commission's willingness to draw down bread-quality stocks that were estimated at 4.3 million tons as of July 31, 1985. The domestic release is seen as a move to supplement this year's small, weather-damaged crop of bread-quality wheat.

CORN FOR
UNKNOWN
PLACES

Private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Oct. 28 the export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during the 1985-86 marketing year.

MORE
UNKNOWN CORN
DESTINATIONS
PLUS GER.

Private exporters reported on Oct. 25 to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the export sales of 100,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to East Germany during the 1985-86 marketing year. Also reported were sales of 119,276 tons of corn for delivery to unknown destinations during 1985-86.

POTENTIAL
TRADE
WITH EGYPT

Egypt's imports of many agricultural items will increase in line with population growth, estimated at 2.6 pct. a year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture foresees increased export potential for a number of products including feed grains, protein meals, soybeans, livestock products, poultry products, cotton and forest products.

U.S. LOVES
CHOCOLATE!

The world cocoa bean production for the 1985/86 Oct.-Sept. marketing year is forecast by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 1.85 million tons, nearly 3 pct. below the record 1984/85 outturn, but still would be the second largest of record. The United States is the big importer of cocoa beans and products during Jan.-Aug. 1985, with a gain of 21 pct. over that of a year earlier. Imports of cocoa butter, chocolate liquor, and sweetened chocolate also were significantly higher.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

3

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE...Rising foreign production, falling prices, and shrinking volume pushed down U.S. agricultural exports 17 pct. in value during fiscal year 1985. USDA economist Tom Warden talks about factors contributing to this situation. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (501)

FLORIDA CITRUS INDUSTRY...USDA economist Neil Conklin focuses on the freezes in Florida during the last five seasons and the affect of these freezes on the Florida citrus industry. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (502)

BEHAVE - NEW FOREST FIRE TOOL...Charles Philpot, USDA's Forest Service, describes how the computer system "BEHAVE" helps firefighters be more effective and also reduces costs. Vic Powell interviews. (503)

RARE PARASITE IN SHEEP...A parasitic roundworm that can cause serious disease in lambs has been found in the Pacific northwest. Dr. Gary Zimmerman of Oregon State Univ. Veterinary Medicine describes some of the problems caused by this parasite. Keith Riggs interviews. (504)

HAY PRODUCTION...Darrell Miller, Univ. of Illinois, talks about the income potential of growing hay as an alternative to corn and soybeans. Gary Beaumont interviews. (505)

AQUACULTURE
POTENTIAL

Export opportunities for U.S. aquaculture products look good with the rapidly increasing worldwide demand for fish products expected over the next 15 years. U.S. aquaculture produces fish and shellfish, such as catfish, crawfish, trout, baitfish, ornamental fish, oysters, shrimp, clams, mussels and salmon. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, global aquaculture production is currently 22 billion pounds a year, ranking it fourth in meat production, behind beef, pork and poultry.

CHANGES IN
GRAIN
INSPECTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is changing its regulations that specify types of inspection services and certificates provided by the Federal Grain Inspection Service. The changes include eliminating the use of multiple certificates when portions of a grain shipment do not meet inspection requirements and allowing voluntary instead of mandatory prior-to-loading stowage examinations of outbound, intra-company barge shipments of grain. The final rule is published in the Oct. 31 Federal Register and becomes effective Nov. 30. For more info., contact Lewis Lebakken, Jr., USDA, FGIS, Room 0667-S, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: 202/382-1738.

POULTRY GRADE
STANDARDS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed a new grade standard for poultry products and revision of some existing grade standards for poultry. The proposal would establish a new grade standard to permit voluntary grading of boneless poultry and boneless-skinless poultry products. The proposal also revised the rules for displaying the USDA identification symbol and trademark on poultry product packages. The proposal is in the Oct. 24 Federal Register. Send any comments to D. M. Holbrook, Room 3944-S, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

OFF MIKE

Max Stewart (WSMI, Litchfield, IL) will become the farm director at KMOX, St. Louis, November 29. He's the first farm director the station has had since the early 1970's. Max says he'll still live in Litchfield and commute the 50 miles to work. Incidentally, Max also updated us on our story about the Indiana Farm Progress Show. He said Mike Adams (WLDS, Jacksonville, IL) and Mike Perrine (WJIL, Jacksonville, IL) were also at the show. And Max also wanted us to know that it was his mobile home that was loaded at the show ... We received word from "Colonel" Dink Embry (WHOP, Hopkinsville, KY) that he had an Achilles tendon operation. Because of first a full cast then a shorter one, Dink had to stay home. So, he did his "Early Bird" show from there. His listeners liked it, he said, because he took on a real "homey" flavor. His lovin' spouse made breakfast while the show was going on and even stopped by for a bit of chit-chat while the coffee perked. And Dink says he'll see you all at the NAFB meeting in Kansas City...maybe on crutches, but he'll be there ... Jack McConnell is no longer at KOLT, Scottsbluff. He's the new farm director at KNOX, Grand Forks, ND, effective November 4 ... Richard Shields has left KFKA, Greeley, CO, to become farm director at KMOM, Great Falls, MT. Dave Spitler is the new farm director at KFKA ... South Dakota Educational Television is looking for a full-time television producer. Cutoff date for applications is November 29. If you'd like more information, call Richard Muller at 605-677-5861 ... And Oklahoma State University is looking for a producer-anchor person. A bachelor's degree is required, plus at least three years of experience. Send resume', audition tape and three letters of reference to Charles Voyles, Agriculture Information, 102 Public Information Bldg., Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078 ... We talked briefly with Curt Lancaster (VSA, San Angelo, TX) while setting up a telephone press conference with Sec'y of Agric John Block. Curt said he'd been reading about all the traveling farm broadcasters have been doing and just wanted us to know he had been traveling, too. Latest trip was to Big Spring, TX. All of 180 miles round trip. Wow!!

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1482...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) On this edition Brenda Curtis travels to Tennessee to visit with owners, trainers and fans of the Tennessee Walking Horse, a horse steeped in controversy over the years.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1453...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Beef consumption down; Organic farming; Walking horse of Tennessee.

CONSUMER TIME #965...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) Leaf it to beaver; Organic foods; Investment ideas; Defeating the vending machine; Wilderness areas, A part of the U.S.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Nov. 12, U.S. crop production; World ag. supply and demand; Wed, Nov. 13, Weekly crop and weather report; Fri, Nov. 15, Milk production report. Mon, Nov. 18, Cotton and wool report; Tues, Nov. 19, Ag outlook, Farm labor report and Weekly crop and weather report. Dial the USDA National News Line 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EDT each working day.



JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio-Television Division